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LETTER DATED 28 JANUARY 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the letter of Dr. Kamal Kharrazi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, addressed to you (see annex).

It would be highly appreciated if this letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hadi NEJAD HOSSEINIAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Letter dated 27 January 1999 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran addressed to the Secretary-General

I would like to draw your attention to the recent incidents in the southern part of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which gravely concern my Government. As you may know, on Monday morning, 25 January 1999, an American air-to-surface missile hit the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran in an area near the Iranian city of Abadan in Khuzestan Province. The incident was preceded by another one when, on 17 December 1998 and during the first round of recent military operations of the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland against Iraq, the Iranian city of Khorramshahr was hit by American missiles three times.

Repetition of similar incidents within a short period of time and in the same area would render it difficult to accept the claim that mistake or miscalculation lay at the origin of the incidents. In any event, it presents a serious threat to life and certain activities in this region, hampering its long-awaited return to normalcy.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, while condemning any infringement of its territorial integrity and national sovereignty, holds the American Government directly responsible for the entirety of the damages caused by the missiles. It further warns the perpetrators that such incidents will negatively affect peace and security in the whole region.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran further expects you to take appropriate measures in preventing the recurrence of such incidents.

(Signed) Kamal KHARRAZI
Minister for Foreign Affairs